

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04878 220902Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 /101 W

-----072285 220905Z /23

R 220825Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2203

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4878

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, MORG, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SITHOLE AGREES WITH SMITH THAT DEFENSE
FORCE SHOULD REMAIN

REF: PRETORIA 4858

PRESS ACCOUNTS OF AUGUST 22 REPORT THAT REV. SITHOLE PUBLICLY
BACKED SMITH'S STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT THE RHODESIAN SECURITY
FORCES SHOULD NOT BE DISBANDED. SITHOLE REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT THE CRUCIAL POINT WAS NOT THEIR DISBANDMENT BUT THEIR
LOYALTY TO THE STATE. HE SAID, "THE PRESENT SECURITY FORCES HAVE
SERVED SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS WITH A PROFESSIONAL LOYALTY
AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE NEW
GOVERNMENT AND NEW STATE WITH THE SAME LOYALTY." SITHOLE
SAID IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE FORCES ARE
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BALCK AND THAT BOTH BLACK AND WHITE HAD LONG EXPERIENCE IN
THE FIELD. HE ADDED, "THE SUGGESTION TO DISMANTLE (THEM)
IS NOTHING SHORT OF A PRESCRIPTION FOR CHAOS AND DISORDER. NO SANE
MAN CAN GO ALONG WITH THIS."
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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